

POST-FLOOD REHABILITATION

Dhaka to seek special financial support from ADB

Regional trade talks begin in Manila today

FARDAUS MOBAROK

Bangladesh is likely to urge Asian Development Bank (ADB) for special financial support to help recover huge losses and damages caused by recent floods in the country, said official sources.

A Bangladesh delegation headed by Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, now in Manila, will have a meeting with ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda today on the sideline of a gathering titled 'Mobilising Aid for Trade: Focus Asia and the Pacific', the sources added.

The delegation left Dhaka for Manila on September 17 to attend the two-day regional conference.

The ADB and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are jointly hosting the conference in cooperation with the Government of the Philippines.

At the conference, Dhaka will

also seek some special financial benefits from the developed nations and international donors for empowering the least developed countries (LDCs) like Bangladesh to benefit from the global trade.

Top global and regional trade officials along with key private sector representatives have gathered in Manila to discuss how to empower less developed economies and small states to benefit from global trade.

More than two dozen top finance and trade ministers from Asia and the Pacific along with participants from investment banks and corporations are expected to discuss ways and means to strengthen trade and infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific.

ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda and WTO Director General Pascal Lamy will kick-off the conference today.

Sources in the finance ministry said Mirza Aziz will have separate talks with the ADB president and high officials of the Manila-based donor on the sideline of the conference where he would brief about Bangladesh's current reform activities particularly reforms in the Anti-Corruption Commission, Election Commission, Judicial System and Public Service Commission to inform the global lender about new Bangladesh.

Besides, the adviser will request Haruhiko Kuroda, president of the 67-member lending agency, to provide special support for post-flood rehabilitation and reducing fiscal deficit due to the deluge, the sources noted.

The ADB president may also be requested to help in some priority areas of the country like power generation, energy exploration, reforms in the public administration and infrastructure development.

The Manila conference will focus on how regional multilateral institutions like ADB can contribute to making 'Aid for Trade' a viable, efficient and effective way to help its LDCs and small states.

The conference is the second of the three regional meetings to be held this year in the context of the Aid for Trade initiative launched at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong in December 2005.

The other two conferences will focus on Latin America and Africa.

At the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference, major donors pledged around \$15 billion for the Aid for Trade initiative for LDCs and small countries in the globe.

The outcome of Manila conference will contribute to WTO's Aid for Trade Review to be held in Geneva in November this year.



PHOTO: PID

Ugandan State Minister for Foreign Affairs Isaac Musumba calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

Banker's wife commits suicide over dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife committed suicide in the city's Tejgaon area on Monday night allegedly unable to withstand torture by her husband for dowry.

In another incident, a 12-year schoolboy committed suicide at Hazaribagh on the same day after his father refused to give him one taka.

The deceased Jebunesa Bulbuli, 27, was wife of Mir Tajim Arefin, an officer of Exim Bank's Gulshan branch.

Bulbuli's elder brother Ataul Haque Khan found her hanging by a scarf from ceiling fan inside her bedroom on the top floor of a six-storey building at East Razabazar.

Police recovered the body at 8:00pm on Monday.

According to the victim's family members, Bulbuli was forced to commit suicide as her husband was torturing her for the last six months for dowry.

"Give me Tk 2 lakh to Tk 4 lakh or flat or a motorcycle or get my house decorated. Had I married somewhere else I could have realised a considerable dowry," Ataul quoted Bulbuli as saying by her husband.

Ataul said they did not inform police about the torture as both families settled the matter several times with Tajim admitting his wrongdoings and promising each time not to misbehave again.

He said Tajim's relatives assured him of settling the issue finally when he went to bring Bulbuli back home on Monday morning.

Neighbours complained that the couple used to bawl almost every

night.

Meanwhile, the schoolboy was identified as Maruf Rahman, 12, a student of class six.

Maruf was found hanging by a rope from ceiling fan in his residence on Kazirbagh Lane on Monday afternoon.

Earlier in the morning, Maruf's father Siddikur Rahman, a vegetable vendor in local kitchen market, refused to give him Tk 1, sources said.

Husband 'forces' wife to commit suicide in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The police yesterday arrested a Bangladeshi expatriate on charges of forcing his wife to commit suicide at their house at Bandar in Narayanganj.

The victim, Hanufa Begum Lata, 25, committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling fan on Monday noon.

Her mother Rashida Begum filed a case against Lata's husband Abul Hossain and sisters-in-law Shahnaz and Farida Begum, accusing them of torture, which prompted Lata to kill herself.

Abul Hossain, who has been working in Saudi Arabia for the last several years, came home 20 days ago and started torturing Lata, said her brother Shapon. Abul married Lata eight years ago.

In his absence, his sisters frequently smeared Lata, Shapon said.

Fund raising dinner generates \$1 lakh for flood victims

Bss, Dhaka

Muslim community in Canada and the Canadian elite together contributed 100,000 Canadian dollars at a fund raising dinner held at Nugget Mosque in Toronto recently for helping the flood victims of Bangladesh.

Fakhruddin lauded the socio-economic achievements attained in Uganda under the leadership of President Museveni.

Musumba stressed the need for further strengthening trade relations between the two countries and requested for taking a business delegation during the CA's trip to Uganda.

Reciprocating the minister's view, the chief adviser said trade relations between the two countries should be expanded and stressed the importance of identifying of some items by businessmen of both the countries to increase their trade volumes.

Earlier, talking to reporters at a brief meeting with the Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Musumba said he came here with a special message and invitation from President Yoweri Museveni to his brother and colleague the chief adviser to attend the summit.

BUET ADMISSION TEST Distribution of forms begins September 25

Bangladesh University of Science and Technology (Buet) authorities will start distributing forms for first year admission test under the academic session 2007-08 from September 25, says a press release.

Forms can be collected from 9:00am to 3:30pm up to October 11 and from 9:00am to 5:00pm on September 16 and 17.

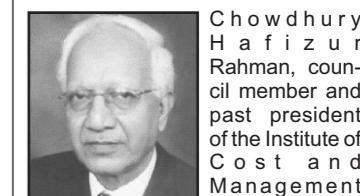
The deadline for submitting forms is October 17.

A total of 6000 applicants on merit basis will be called for admission test.

List of the selected applicants will be published on October 31.

Applicants will vie for 885 seats, including three reserved seats for the tribal students at Buet this year.

Obituary



Chowdhury Haфизur Rahman, council member and past president of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB), passed away at Square Hospital in the city on September 17 at the age of 69, says a press release.

He was also a member of the Board of Directors of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Beximco Infusions Ltd and managing director of Bangladesh Online Ltd.

His quikhwani will be held at his residence at House # 70, Road # 11/A, Dhamrai on September 21 after Asr prayers. Well-wishers are requested to attend the quikhwani.

He was suffering from paralysis.

He left behind his wife, 3 sons, 3 daughters and good number of well-wishers.

DHAKA TODAY Reception

Vigarnissa Noon School will accord a reception to the students who passed this year's SSC examinations with GPA 5. Venue: School premises. Time: 2:00pm.

Workshop

Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) organises a workshop on ILO Convention 138 and Recommendation 146. Venue: Biam Foundation. Time: 10:30am.

Discussion

Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) will hold a discussion on 'Price hike of essentials and our responsibilities'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.



Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury speaks at a policy dialogue at a city hotel yesterday. On her right are Secretary of Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Rokeya Sultana and Director General of Directorate of Women Affairs Masuda Bente Quadir and on her left is UN Cedaw Committee member Ferdous Ara Begum.

Call to fully implement Cedaw

DU CORRESPONDENT

here are still subjected to various forms of discrimination.

Studies should be carried out on how the government bodies are working to fulfil Cedaw obligations, they said.

In accordance with the Article 18 of the Cedaw, countries that have ratified or acceded to the convention are required to submit national reports, at least every four years, on measures they have taken to comply with the treaty obligations.

Bangladesh is scheduled to submit its combined 6th and 7th periodic report on Cedaw implementation status by January 2009.

Directorate of Women Affairs, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) jointly organised the policy dialogue on implementation status of Cedaw in Bangladesh at a city hotel.

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury said people should be aware of existing laws in order to achieve empowerment of women.

She also said the government is going to amend the Citizenship Act 1951 to ensure that it is not discriminatory to women.

Presenting the keynote paper, Ferdous Ara Begum, a member of UN Cedaw Committee, said withdrawal of

the reservations to Article No. 2 and Article No. 16(1)C is very important for Bangladesh. The Cedaw committee feels that reservations to Article 2 go against the object and purpose of the convention.

"Practical realisation of the principle of equality cannot be achieved keeping reservations to the Article No. 2."

Though Bangladesh is a signatory to the Cedaw, it is yet to ratify Articles 2 and 16(1)C of the convention, hindering its proper implementation.

Article 16(1)C provides for equal rights and responsibilities for marriage and dissolution of marriage.

On the key issues for consideration for the 6th and 7th periodic report, Ferdous Ara said the Cedaw recommended that the government adopt a uniform family code to end unequal status of women within the family, particularly in matters related to marriage, divorce, custody, alimony and property inheritance.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim said this following a meeting with the ACC Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashud Chowdhury at the latter's office yesterday.

However, he didn't say how long it would take to shift the office.

ACC will recruit more staff by December under the organogram and about 700 employees will work at the ACC head office.

Earlier, the ACC applied to the home ministry to shift the office of narcotics control department.

The number of personnel is going to be raised to 1,281 from the existing 650 as the workload of the commission has increased in the changed situation.

ROW WITH BROTHER Child drowned by miscreants in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Seismic observatories at Dhaka and Chittagong recorded a mild tremor with a magnitude of 4.1 on the Richter Scale at 3:01:53 yesterday, met office sources said.

The epicentre of the tremor was 503 km southeast of Dhaka and 302 km southeast of Chittagong, suggesting that it was located somewhere in Myanmar.

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OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Miscreants drowned a child following a row with his elder brother at Kayetpur area of Fatullah on Monday night.

The four-year-old Nayan was drowned by Sharif, a garment worker, as a row over a trifle took place between Nayan's elder brother Khokon, 20, and Sharif, police sources said.

Police arrested Sharif, Nabir and Azam in this connection yesterday.

Azam confessed that as per the direction of Sharif, he along with his associate Nabir called on Nayan and drowned him.

Later police recovered the body of Nayan from a nearby water body.

However, Anwara Begum, mother of Nayan, alleged that Rafiq and Selim of the area had killed her son with the help of the arrestees following a land dispute.

She also filed a case with Fatullah Police Station against Nayan's elder brother Sharif and Nabir.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening

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